



**DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**  
**Canandaigua VA Medical Center**  
400 Fort Hill Avenue, Canandaigua, NY 14424

## **NEWS RELEASE**

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Date: December 10, 2008**

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### **Kwanzaa Celebration At The Canandaigua Va Medical Center**

On Tuesday December 30, the Canandaigua VA Medical Center will host a Kwanzaa Celebration. This event will be held in Building 5 Auditorium at 1:30 p.m. Acclaimed storyteller Karima Amin will explain the symbols of the holiday and entertain with stories, drumming and songs.

Kwanzaa is a unique African American celebration with focus on the traditional African values of family, community responsibility, commerce, and self-improvement. Kwanzaa is neither political nor religious. It is a time of reaffirming African-American people, their ancestors and culture. Kwanzaa means "first fruits of the harvest" in the African language Kiswahili. Since its founding in 1966 by Dr. Maulana Karenga, Kwanzaa has come to be observed by more than 18 million people worldwide.

Native Buffalonian, Karima Amin (nee Carol Ann Aiken) is a dedicated educator, educational consultant, published author and full-time, professional storyteller. Amin's face is familiar in a community where she has been cited for several community service honors. In 2006 she received community leadership honors from both the Metro Development Community Corporation and the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists. Amin's voice is familiar too. She has delivered thousands of storytelling performances, workshops, lecture demonstrations, keynotes, and libations for adults and children at a variety of venues.

Veterans, families and community members are invited to attend. For further information please contact Hank Riegel, VA Medical Center Recreation Therapy Supervisor at (585) 393-7370. The Canandaigua Medical Center is located at 400 Fort Hill Avenue, Canandaigua, NY.

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